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COUNTRY	Austria (Soviet Zone)	REPORT
TOPIC	1. Soviet Officer Replacements in Austria.	25X1
	2. Information on the Discharge of the 1927 Class	25X1
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT		25X1
DATE OBTAINED	PREPARED 16 February 1951	
REFERENCES	This is UNEVALUATED Information	25X1

1. During the period from 23 November to 26 December 1950, the following shipments of officer replacements were observed to arrive in Vienna by the train coming from Cop (R 49/E 90):

- a. On 23 November, about 160 young officers, mostly junior lieutenants and lieutenants, but including senior lieutenants and captains, arrived at the Ostbahnhof (East railroad station). All the officers wore new uniforms of the same cloth and style. They wore red service color and service caps with red piping.
- b. About 40 young officers, most of them members of mechanized units, arrived on 26 November. Signal, administrative and technical service officers were also observed.
- c. No shipments of officers were observed on 28 November. About 150 young officers, including five to seven majors, arrived on 30 November. Most of the officers belonged to mechanized units.
- d. About 50 young officers arrived on 10 December.
- e. About 40 officers, only a small percentage of whom belonged to mechanized units, arrived on 12 December. Cigarette brands seen on butts found in the square in front of the railroad station where the officers were standing included Trud (Lvov), Shakhitorskiye (Kharkov), Planier (Kiev), Chayka (Moscow) and Astra (Moscow).
- f. About 40 officers of various branches of service, including three majors, arrived on 14 December.
- g. About 50 officers of various branches of service, predominantly young men, arrived on 17 December. (1)
- h. An undetermined number of officers arrived on 19 December. Most of the officers belonged to mechanized units. About 7 a.m. on the same day a group of about 30 young officers carrying small suitcases arrived in front of the railroad stations. They were presumably leaving Vienna. their train departed at 12:10 p.m.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Class. Changed To:	TS S
Auth.:	HR 70-2
Date:	260778

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officers concerned had presumably arrived in Vienna in one of the shipments observed previously. (1) (2)

i. About 35 officers of various branches of service, most of them ranking from major to colonel, arrived on 21 December.

j. About 30 officers, about half of them ranking from major to colonel, arrived on 24 December. Cigarette brands on cigarette butts found in front of the railroad station included Krasnaya Svesta (Leningrad), Sport (Lvov), Donbas (Lvov), Pribo (Lvov) and Diushes (Moscow).

k. About 35 young officers arrived on 26 December. The motor vehicles which picked up these officers had taken a group of 20 other officers to the Vienna-Cop train. Cigarettes found at the points of entraining included Moskovskiye (Moscow), Katyusha (Lvov), Pushki (Lvov), Sovietskaya Pribaltika (Riga), North(Leningrad), Yava (Moscow), Festival (Moscow).

l. About 150 officers between 20 and 30 years of age arrived on 3 December. From 30 to 40 percent of the group belonged to mechanized units. Cigarettes found at the point of detraining included Luks (Moscow, Flotskiye (Odessa), Sievernaya Palmira (Lvov). As usual, 300 to 400 soldiers apparently returning from leave arrived by the same train.

m. Passenger car [redacted] and trucks [redacted] each of them occupied by 15 to 20 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets, arrived at the Vienna Ostbahnhof on 5 December about 9:30 a.m. Every second soldier carried a loaf of bread. All soldiers carried rucksacks or small suitcases and wore fur-lined caps (uzhanki). The detachment was under the command of a major who also wore black service color. The departure of the soldiers was not observed. About 60 officers arrived on the train from Cop.

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n. About 50 officers arrived on 7 December 1950. No details were available.

c. About 35 officers of various branches of service, most of them young men, arrived on 28 December. Besides these 35 officers, a group of about 50 officers and soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets arrived. Officers and soldiers were carrying rucksacks and suitcases. Except for some carbines no weapons were seen. This group was picked up by Ford trucks [redacted] Chevrolet truck [redacted] and jeep [redacted] (1)

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2. All the officers who arrived in Vienna were trucked to Baden. The group of officers who had arrived on 10 December was taken to 23 Trostgasse in Baden. This house has a large garden with several buildings in it. In the afternoon this group was again seen on the way to the officers' house in Baden.

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It was observed on 10 December that the trucks used for the shipment of the officers returned to the park of the Laxenburg (P h9/A h7) Castle. [redacted] a motor transport battalion of the Central Group of Forces was stationed there. (3)

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[redacted] Soldiers of the motor transport unit wore red-bordered black epauletts and most of them also had motor transport insignia.

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[redacted] Soldiers wearing black-bordered black epauletts were also seen there. Jeep [redacted] was observed with almost all shipments. It was occupied by a major who seemed to be responsible for the transportation of the officers concerned.

3. [redacted] the officers who arrived in Austria recently were from officers schools in the U.S.S.R. Most of them were not veterans of World War II. The shipments concerned were to bring the units in Austria to full T/O strength and to establish an officer reserve. An exchange of officers also took place. Affected were officers who were not fully fit or who suffered from wounds received in the last war. Officers considered unreliable were also returned to the U.S.S.R. (4)

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4. Since 1 November 1950 the Central Group of Forces in Baden, through a special commission, has been screening a number of sergeants qualified to serve as officers. Mostly veterans of World War II and sergeants who had distinguished themselves in political indoctrination were selected. The definite appointment to the rank of officer was decreed in Moscow. (1)
5. It was ascertained on 27 December 1950 that the 1927 class was not yet discharged. The routine discharge was due in March 1951. It was rumored within troop units that the discharge would not take effect on the date mentioned because to the critical political situation. The demobilization of the 1926 class was completed.

Comments.

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- (1) According to the report, a total of approximately 1,000 officers arrived in Vienna. Most of them were junior and company-grade officers of up to 30 years of age, the majority of them belonging to mechanized units. Although a certain percentage of the officers observed may have returned from leave it seems definite that the Soviet units in Austria, as in the Soviet zone of Germany, received large groups of new officers. [redacted]
- (2) These officer replacements, which presumably went to all units assigned to the Central Group of Forces, were first taken by motor vehicles of GMD units of the Central Group of Forces to Baden near Vienna, from where they were distributed among the various units, following the procedure observed in Frankfurt/Oder. The shipment of officers from Vienna, presumably in the direction of Budapest, indicates that the officer replacements also went to Soviet units in Hungary assigned to the Central Group of Forces.
- (3) According to available information, the unidentified motor transport battalion of the Central Group of Forces is assumed to be located in Laxenburg. It can be considered as being confirmed there by the present report up to 26 December 1950.
- (4) A very large number of officer replacements was observed. This fact underlines the statement made by an officer from Traiskirchen, according to which the number of officers available with the units of the Central Group of Forces is to be brought to full T/O strength and that a replacement pool of officers is to be created. The promotion of suitable NCOs to the rank of officer, which would serve the same purpose, appears credible. [redacted]

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[redacted] this measure is already under way with troop units. [redacted]

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